

CELEBRATION OF THE FESTIVAL
OF DIWALI**HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 26, 2011

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the joyous Festival of Diwali. Diwali directly translates from Hindi, into "Row of Lights." From this translation, Diwali has come to be known as "The Festival of Lights." Celebrations of Diwali involve the lighting of lamps to symbolize hope and joy. Other common practices include lighting fireworks and distributing sweets and gifts. The lighting of lamps is meant to symbolize the victory of good and the removal of darkness, or evil. The spiritual darkness is said to be "vanquished" by the many lights, bringing happiness and bliss to the people of this Earth.

This cultural and religious festival is celebrated by nearly 1 billion Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, and Buddhists in more than 20 countries. In the United States, some 2 million people observe Diwali, including many in the multi-cultural congressional district that I am proud to represent.

Diwali is one of the most important holidays within Hinduism. In the Hindu faith, Diwali is linked to Rama's triumphant return following his victory over Ravana as told in the epic "The Ramayana." Following Rama's victory, his people lit clay lamps along the capital city as to celebrate the returning of their King. These clay lamps were called Deepavalis, which Diwali is a shortened version of. In many Hindu calendars, Diwali corresponds with the start of a new year, correlating with the ideas of rebirth and renewal.

In Jainism, Diwali marks the date upon which Lord Mahavira achieved the state of absolute bliss or Nirvana. It is said that King Chetaka, upon Lord Mahavira achieving Nirvana, lit a multitude of lamps in order to create a material light to replace the light of intelligence that had been lost.

In the Sikh tradition, the foundation of the Golden Temple is said to have been laid on Diwali. In this tradition, the 6th Sikh guru Hargobind was released from prison on the festival of Diwali. Hundreds of lamps were lit in honor of Hargobind's return.

Mr. Speaker, there is great diversity among the faiths that celebrate this joyful holiday. Across all of these traditions, Diwali holds significance in the South-Asian community as a time of hope, happiness and the renewal of life. For this reason, I am proud to be a co-sponsor of House Resolution 439, recognizing the historical and religious importance of Diwali. I would like to join with all those celebrating this joyous time and wish Shubh Diwali to all.

IN HONOR OF FILIPINO AMERICAN
HISTORY MONTH**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 26, 2011

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the millions of Filipino Americans across America and to recognize October as Filipino American History Month.

Filipinos first arrived on America's shores in the 16th century and they are now the third largest Asian American community in the United States with nearly 4 million Americans of Filipino descent.

Filipino Americans have contributed to the United States in every field of endeavor, like science, medicine, education, business, politics, agriculture, and they have served with distinction in our armed forces.

They continue to enrich American life through their contributions to our arts and culture.

In my home district, the California 9th, there are over 68,000 Filipino Americans and I know that my district is stronger and more successful because of their presence.

I believe that it is important to acknowledge the important role that immigrants play in the fabric of American life and I would encourage the leadership to act quickly on S. Res. 287, to officially designate October 2011 as "Filipino American Awareness Month."

IN MEMORY OF THE LIFE OF
MILDRED HEMMONS-CARTER**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 26, 2011

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to the life of Mrs. Mildred Hemmons-Carter who passed away on Friday, October 21, 2011.

Mrs. Hemmons-Carter was born in Benson, Alabama, on September 12, 1921 and graduated from school in 1941 with a degree in Business from the Tuskegee Institute.

On February 1st of 1941, Mrs. Hemmons-Carter received her pilot's license making history as the first African-American woman to do so.

On February 1st of this year, a celebration was held to honor the 70th anniversary of her licensing.

Mrs. Hemmons-Carter is survived by her husband of 70 years, Ret. Col. Herbert E. Carter, an original Tuskegee Airman.

It is a sad day in Alabama as we lose one of our great women who proved the sky is the limit. We honor the memory of Mildred Hemmons-Carter today.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. IVAN BODIS-
WOLLNER**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 26, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to and honor Dr. Ivan Bodis-Wollner for his work on advancing the knowledge of Parkinson's Disease, towards finding a cure and establishing a PD Clinic that offers specialized, comprehensive care for all patients.

Dr. Bodis-Wollner has established and maintained a Parkinson Disease and Related Disorders Clinic, designated as a Center of Excellence (COE) by the National Parkinson Foundation since 1995. His work as a Professor of Neurology and Ophthalmology has

taught him the discipline needed to continue his outreach in this field. In this capacity Dr. Bodis-Wollner, popularized the concept of the "Pre-Cardinal stage" of Parkinson's disease both in the field of neurology and in the lay press. This concept helps to recruit patients in early phases for participating in NIH sponsored neuroprotective trials clinical research.

Dr. Bodis-Wollner has done extensive work in the Brooklyn area producing ongoing, renewable multicenter research for the potential neuroprotective effect of Creatine and of Co-Q10. Several of his works focus on the affluence of Parkinson's disease in inner city communities and among African Americans and other racial and ethnic groups. The significant strides Dr. Bodis-Wollner has made in his research will undoubtedly benefit countless numbers of constituents in my district and the New York region.

Dr. Bodis-Wollner was Chief Editor of Clinical Vision Sciences and after its merger, Section Editor of Vision Research in all for 14 years. He has lectured around the world, taught medical students, and trained scores of younger scientists who have worked with him and learned from him in his laboratory. Among his students are professors of neurology and clinical neurophysiology and faculty members in neurology. Dr. Bodis-Wollner is also the Chairman of the "Non-Motor" working group of the Parkinson Study Group, a nationwide think-tank for clinical Parkinson Disease Research. Further, he has published well over 100 research studies in peer reviewed journals including Nature, Science, Journal of Physiology, Brain, and Annals of Neurology.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Dr. Bodis-Wollner for his accomplishments in the area of health care and his service to Brooklyn and New York.

RECOGNIZING FIRE CHIEF JIM
MILLER, A FORMER LOCKPORT
TOWNSHIP FIRE CHIEF WHO
PASSED AWAY AT THE AGE OF
74**HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 26, 2011

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a selfless public servant, former Lockport Township Fire Chief Jim Miller. On September 13, Chief Miller passed away at the age of 74. As a firefighter, he dedicated his life to protecting his neighbors. As Fire Chief, he helped steer the Lockport Township Fire Department through turbulent economic times.

Mr. Miller began his remarkable career as a firefighter in 1959. He became Fire Chief in 1979 and served in that capacity until 1987. As Fire Chief, he kept his station afloat despite scarceness of equipment and firefighters. When he became Fire Chief, instead of purchasing the traditional new white helmet, Mr. Miller simply spray painted his old helmet white because of the Department's tight budget. After the economy rebounded, he kept his old white helmet and elected to purchase better equipment for his firefighters instead. This small example of his willingness to do the best for his firefighters and share the hardship of a tight budget made him a model for what a Fire Chief and a great leader should be.